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Date: December 8, 2009

**To: Members of the House Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources
Committee**

From: Matt Smego, Legislative Counsel

Re: Testimony on SB 934 – ORV clarification of exception for farm vehicles

Michigan Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization representing over 47,000 farm family members.

Michigan Farm Bureau supports SB 934 as it clarifies the original intent of the law that excludes farm vehicles from the regulation of ORV when used for farming purposes.

SB 934 would define the term farm vehicle as either an implement of husbandry as defined by the Motor Vehicle Code or a vehicle used in connection with a farm operation as defined by the Right to Farm Act. We believe this change will assist law enforcement officers to determine the conditions as to when a vehicle qualifies for farm use and when it does not. This clarification does not affect the ability to regulate ATVs or ORVs when not used in connection with the farm operation.

Vehicles that may be multipurpose in nature have proven benefits to farm operations for a variety of tasks from fencing installation and maintenance, spraying of fields and orchards, to monitoring irrigation system calibration. These units are being more widely used to replace other inefficient or less cost effective equipment.

We urge your support for SB 934.

